



The Power & Ministry of the Holy Spirit

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DISCIPLE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Week 1 || Jan 9 & 11, 2024

Session Purpose: The aim of this session is to recognize and understand the identity of the Holy Spirit revealed in God's Word

Introduction:

- One of the most misunderstood and misappropriated truths of Scripture is the identity and ministry of the Holy Spirit. There seems to be more than a little confusion and plenty of error that accompanies this vital topic.
- There are **two extremes** that need to be avoided:
 - 1) Attributing to the Holy Spirit actions and experiences that go beyond Scripture and misconstrue His ministry.
 - 2) Being satisfied with less than what is presented and promised in Scripture about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference." – A.W. Tozer

❶ The Importance of the Holy Spirit

- Without the Holy Spirit, there is:
 - 1) No incarnational life & ministry of Jesus Christ No virgin birth (Mt. 1:18); no conception (Mt. 1:20); no descending upon Him as Messiah at His baptism (Mt. 3:13-17); no anointing to preach (Mt. 12:15-21); no empowering Him for ministry (Mt. 12:28; A. 10:38); no leading Him to face Satan's greatest temptations and winning (Lk 4:1); no aiding Him in His crucifixion (Heb. 9:14); no bodily resurrection from the dead (Rom 1:4)
 - 2) No conviction of sin (Jn. 16:8-9)
 - 3) No salvation (Jn. 3:3-8; 6:63)
 - 4) No Scripture (2 Pet. 1:21)
 - 5) No future bodily resurrection (Rom. 8:11)

- 6) No spiritual life (2 Cor. 3:6)
 - 7) No real freedom (2 Cor. 3:17)
 - 8) No sure hope (Rom. 15:13)
 - 9) No spiritual leadership (Acts. 20:28)
 - 10) No victory over sin (Gal. 5:16)
 - 11) No real spiritual transformation (Gal. 3:2-3)
- Jesus said, "...it is to your _____ that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you..." (John 16:7)
 - There are 324 references to the Holy Spirit in Scripture (79 of the 378 uses of the Hebrew word "ruakh" refer to the Holy Spirit in the OT; 245 of the 379 uses of the Greek word "pneuma" in the NT).
 - *"We teach that the Holy Spirit is God. He convicts people of sin, activates salvation, indwells every believer, unites believers with the church, empowers righteous and obedient living and transforms character and lifestyle as each believer yields to His power. He equips every believer with spiritual gifts to serve the church and the world. Therefore, without the ministry of the Holy Spirit, people are unable to live a life pleasing to God."* (CC's "what we teach" statement of faith regarding the Holy Spirit)

🕉 The Identity of the Holy Spirit

- The Scripture identifies the Holy Spirit in three essential ways:
 - 1) The Spirit is a real _____, not a ghost, impersonal force or power.
 - He has personal characteristics:
 - ≈ intellect (counsels-Isa 11:2; imparts wisdom-Isa. 11:2; inspires Scripture-2 Pet 1:21; intercedes-Rm 8:26; possesses a mind-Rom 8:27; 1 Cor. 2:10-13; reminds-Jn 14:26; provides truth-Jn 14:17, 26; speaks-A. 8:29; 10:19; 11:12)
 - ≈ emotion (joy-1 Thess. 1:6; can be insulted-Heb 10:29; grieved-Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30; loves-Rom 5:5; 15:30)
 - ≈ will (directs-A. 16:6-7; distributes gifts-1 C. 12:11; Heb. 2:4; regenerates-Jn 3 7-8; Titus 3:5)
 - He has personal names like "the Helper" (Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:7)
 - He is referred to with personal pronouns ("He" - Jn. 15:26; 16:7, 17-18)
 - He does work that only persons can do (teach-Jn 14:26; reprove-Jn 16:8; intercede-Rom. 8:26; lead-Rom. 8:14; witness-Rom. 8:16)

2) The Spirit is the _____ co-equal member of the Triune Godhead

- There is one God who exists in three co-equal, co-eternal Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- They are all mentioned together in Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Jn 5:17; Rev. 1:4-5

3) The Spirit is _____

- He shares the same divine names (God-Acts 5:3-4; Lord-2 Cor. 3:18; Spirit of truth-1 Jn. 5:6). The Holy Spirit has some 35 plus names and they indicate His relationship to the Father (*"the Spirit of God"*-Gen. 1:2; Matt. 3:16), the Son (*"the Spirit of Jesus"*-Acts 16:7), those unique to the Spirit (*"the Holy Spirit"*-Matt. 1:18), and those that reveal His attributes (*"the Spirit of grace"*-Heb. 10:29)
- He shares the same divine attributes (truth-1 Jn 5:6; Holy-Lk 11:13; Life-giver-Rom. 8:2; Wisdom-Isa. 40:13; eternal-Heb. 9:14; omnipresent-Ps. 139:7-10; Omniscient-1 Cor 2:10)
- He shares the same divine works (creation-Job 33:4; 26:13; Gen. 1:1-2; 2:7; inspiration-2 Pet. 1:21; salvation-1 Cor. 6:11; regeneration-Titus 3:5; Jn 3:5-8; resurrection-Rom. 8:11; revelation-1 Cor. 2:8-11)
- He shares the same divine authority (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22)
- He shares the same divine equality (named together-1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; use of *"allos"* which is another of the same kind-Jn. 14:16; "in the name of" is singular-Matt. 28:19; the words of Yahweh in the OT are attributed to the Spirit in the NT- Ps. 95:8-11/Hb. 3:7-11; Is. 6:8-10/A. 28:25-27)

③ The Illustrations about the Holy Spirit

- The Scripture uses eight words to illustrate the ministry of the Holy Spirit:
 - 1) Clothing (Luke 24:49) – depicts the empowering and enabling of the Spirit.
 - 2) Dove (Matt. 3:16; Mk 1:10; Lk 3:22; Jn. 1:32) – depicts the righteousness of the Spirit when He fell upon Christ during His baptism that was done to fulfill all righteousness.
 - 3) Pledge (Eph. 1:14; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5) – depicts the guaranteed promise of the Spirit to grant our full salvation.

- 4) Fire (Acts 2:3) – depicts God’s visible Presence through the Spirit
- 5) Oil (2 Cor. 1:21; 1 Jn 2:20, 27) – depicts an appointment to an important position by the Spirit’s anointing.
- 6) Seal (Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor. 1:22) – depicts the redemptive seal of ownership by the Spirit that God placed on His believers
- 7) Water (John 7:38-39; Acts 1:5; 2:33; 1 Cor. 12:13; Titus 3:5-6) – depicts the life-giving salvation the Spirit immerses us in.
- 8) Wind (John 3:8; Acts 2:2; 2 Pet 1:21) – depicts the work of the Spirit in salvation that is invisible, unexpected, unpredictable, and powerful. It also pictures the Spirit’s work of inspiration in writing the Scriptures.

Small Group Questions:

1. Share at least one thing you hope to get out of this 4-week study.
2. What truth about the importance of the Holy Spirit motivates you to think more intentionally about the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life?
3. Do you tend to think of the Holy Spirit as an influence or a Person who is God? Why?
4. Which of the eight illustrations (word pictures) were most helpful to you about understanding the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life?
5. What question about the ministry of the Holy Spirit is most relevant to you and one you would like addressed in this class?
6. What is one thing you learned today that can help you be a better disciple of Jesus Christ?